

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01242 102129Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 INR-10 MCE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-08 ACDA-12 L-03 H-01 /057 W
-----060837 111027Z /23

R 101848Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9732
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1242

DOD FOR DSAA

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PEPR, HO
SUBJ: FY 1979 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - HONDURAS

REF: (A) STATE 43768 (DTG 180644Z FEB 78), (B) 77 STATE 297352
(DTG 132248Z DEC 77), (C) 77 TEGUCIGALPA 5931 (DTG 201842Z
DEC 77)

1. MILGROUP COMMANDER HAS EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN, BASED UPON CLOSE
CONTACTS WITH HONDURAN ARMED FORCES OFFICIALS, THAT REDUCTION OF
FMS LEVEL FROM \$2.5 MILLION FOR FY 1977 AND FY 1978 TO \$2.0 MIL-
LION FOR FY 1979 WILL BE SEEN AS UNJUSTIFIED IN VIEW OF OUR
FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND HONDURAS' GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE.
THE HONDURAN MILITARY PLACES HIGH IMPORTANCE ON THE USE OF FMS
CREDIT AND EVEN A SMALL CUT SUCH AS PROPOSED FOR FY 1979 WILL HAVE
AN UNFORTUNATE, OUT OF PROPORTION EFFECT. THE HONDURAN ARMED
FORCES VALUES THEIR INSTITUTIONAL TIES WITH THE U.S. MILITARY
THROUGH THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH ARE SEEN AS AN INDIC-
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ATOR OF OUR INTEREST IN THAT RELATIONSHIP.

2. EMBASSY CONCURS WITH THIS ASSESSMENT IN GENERAL, ALTHOUGH ALSO
NOTING THAT WHILE THERE WILL BE A CUTBACK, IT IS DIFFICULT TO
IMAGINE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. WHETHER AT \$2.5
MILLION OR \$2.0 MILLION, THE PROPOSED FMS LEVEL DOES NOT LOOM
UNDULY LARGE EITHER IN CENTRAL AMERICAN TERMS, NOR IN TERMS OF OUR

OTHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WITHIN HONDURAS. RECOGNITION OF HONDURAS' FAVORABLE HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE IS PRIMARILY THROUGH AID AND PEACE CORPS EFFORTS RATHER THAN MILITARY "INCENTIVES." STILL, THERE WILL BE AN EFFECT WHICH, IF AVOIDABLE, WOULD BE IN USG INTERESTS TO AVOID.

3. EMBASSY ALSO AWARE THAT THIS CUT IS BASED ON A GENERAL REDUCTION IN WORLDWIDE TERMS AND OBEYS U.S. ARMS RESTRAINT POLICY. SINCE THE AMOUNT INVOLVED IS MINIMAL, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO RESTORATION OF \$2.5 MILLION LEVEL IF ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE.

4. IF APPROVED, GOH WOULD USE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT TO PURCHASE:

(A) LONG RANGE COMMUNICATIONS RADIO EQUIPMENT (FOR ARMED FORCES)

(B) ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT (FOR ARMY)

CRYPTOGRAPHIC MACHINE HC 570-4 EA.

CRYPTOGRAPHIC MACHINE HC 520-25 EA.

CRYPTOGRAPHIC MACHINE DECIPHER EQUIP CRM-008-45 EA.

(C) ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN CONUS - OPEN END (FOR AIR FORCE).

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Message Attributes

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